



The Blurb



Newsletter of The Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club
Public Service Since 1949

Volume 54 Number 12

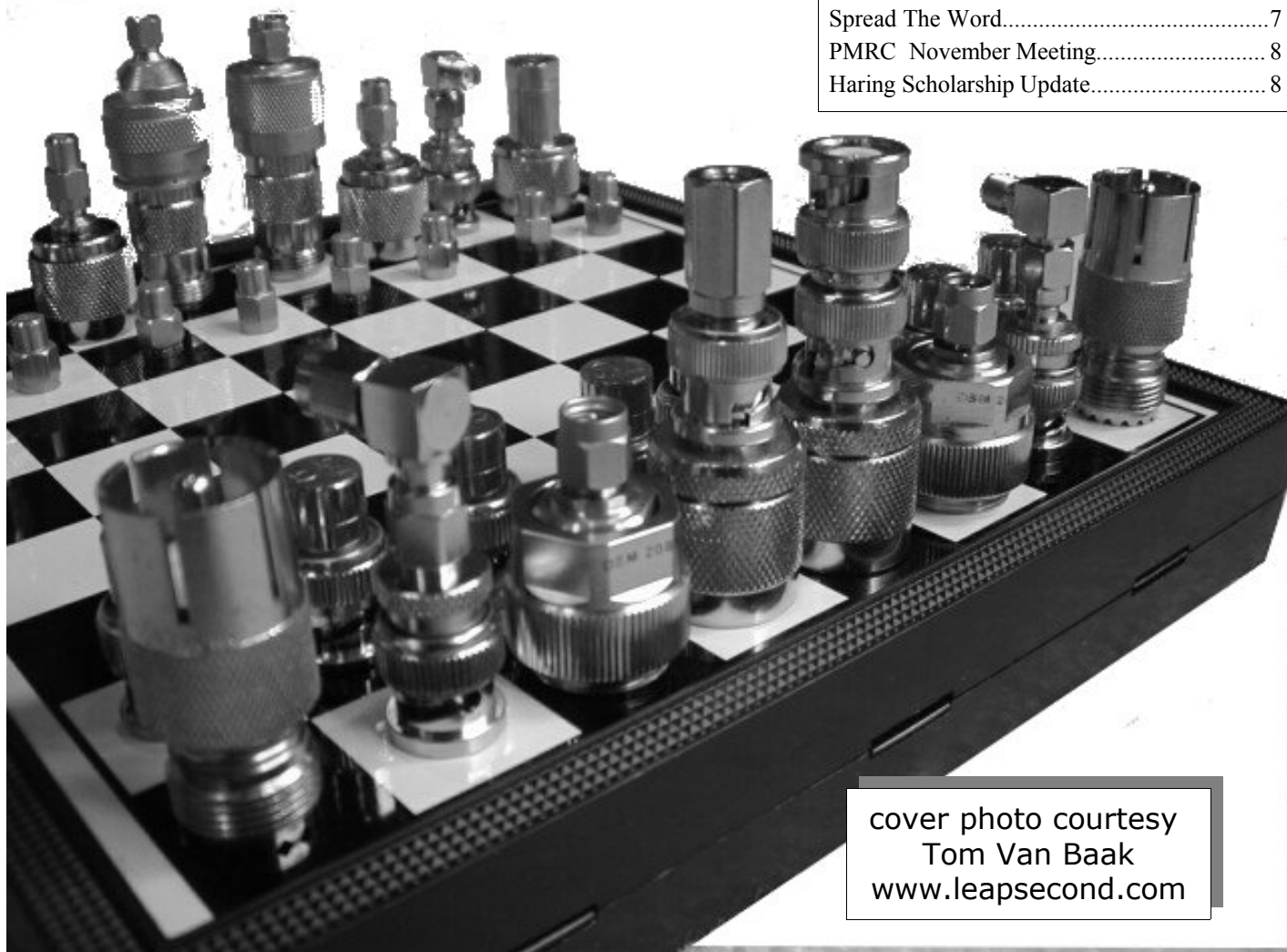
<http://www.phil-mont.org>

December 2004

Amateur Radio --
It's your move...

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cover photo courtesy
Tom Van Baak
www.leapsecond.com

The Blurb is published monthly by, and for, the members of **The PHIL-MONT MOBILE RADIO CLUB, INC.** whose purpose is to promote Amateur Radio in general, and Mobile Radio in particular. *Copying and quoting* is permitted with a credit line. We gladly exchange publications with other amateur radio clubs. Requests should be sent to the Editor. *Subscriptions* are available to non-members for \$10, addressed to the Treasurer.

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Labels and mailing: **WB3KOJ & WB3KOH**

Submissions deadline: all copy must be in the hands of the Editors by the 20th of the previous month.

Sunday Morning Net Schedules

- **2 Meter/ 70cm Net**.....at 09:30et on W3QV repeater
- **10-on-10 Net**at 10:00et 28.393 MHz USB (±QRM)
- **75 meter Net**at 10:20et 3.993 MHz LSB

Contact Phil-mont:

P.O. Box 88

Abington, PA 19001

<http://www.phil-mont.org>

webmistress Maggie K3XS k3xs@arrl.net

For club information: contact any club officer, or the repeaters listed below. Address or club directory changes, and articles that are for the membership e-mail list should be sent to: **wb3koj@comcast.net**

The club meets at 7:30 PM on the **second non-holiday Wednesday** of every month except July and August at **The Masonic Village at Lafayette Hill**
801 Ridge Pike
Lafayette Hill, PA
19444-1799

All visitors are welcome!

License Examinations

are held on the **first non-holiday Thursday** each month (except July and August) at **Northeast High School,**

Cottman and Algon Streets, Philadelphia PA

Registration begins at 6:00 P.M. Enter through the SPARC wing. Exams begin and doors closed and locked at **6:30 P.M. Sharp!** Applicants should call Dusty ND3Q at 215-879-0505 (day) or 215 482 0386 (eve) for the latest information.

Club Stations

W3QV Club Repeater - Trustee: W3BBB

Ridge & Port Royal Avenues, Philadelphia, PA
147.03 MHz + PL 91.5 Hz ▪ 444.80 MHz + PL 186.2 Hz

W3AA at Northeast High School -Trustee: WU3I

Cottman and Algon Streets, Philadelphia, PA

W3EM - Field Day and special event station

Trustee: W3VVS

President:W3STW

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2848 Carter Rd.

Trevoise PA 19053

wstw@juno.com

Vice President:W3AOK

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Richard A. Moll

roger.mike@verizon.net

Asst. Treasurer: N3MT

Micheal P. Taraborrelli
mtarab01@villanova.edu

Directors: W3BBB(05), N3MT (05), N3XKE (05) WU3I (04), K3XS(04), N3YXZ(04), KB3IV(A)

Committees

Archives: NG3P

Audit: NS3K

Awards: open

Blurb folding:

WB3KOJ & WB3KOH

Directory:WB3KOJ

DX: N3MT

Emerg.Coor.: K3HWE

Field Day: KE3QB

Internet: K3XS

Membership: W3LEN

Net Control: KB3IV

Publicity: W3RM

Program: Club VP

Public Service: open

Refreshments: W3AOK

Repeater: W3BBB

Skywarn: WX3PHI

Sunshine: N3GLU

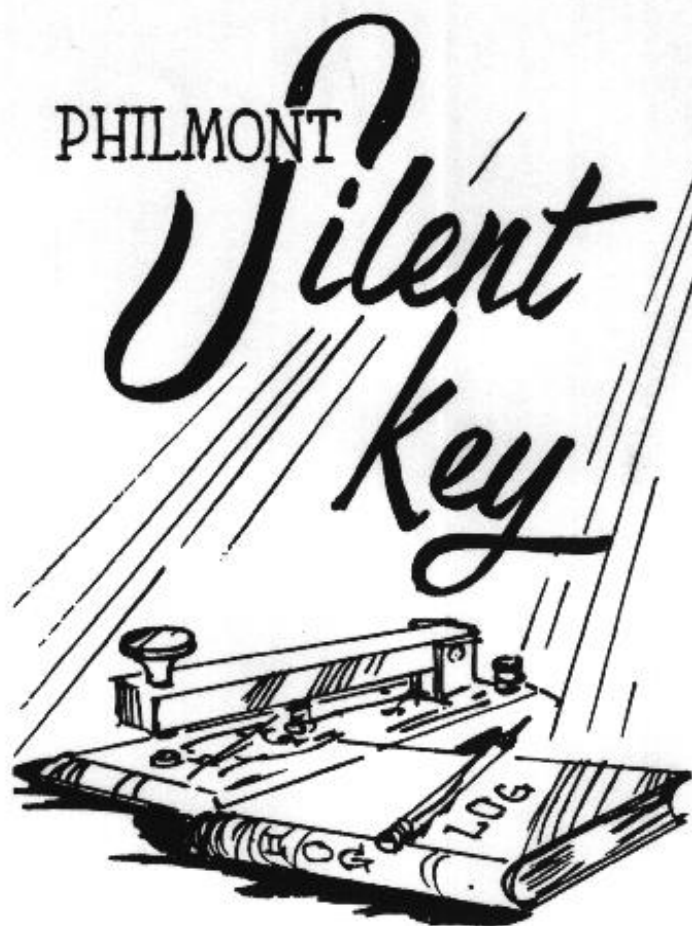
Youth: N3MT

TVI: W3VVS

VE Program: ND3Q

W3AA Trustee: WU3I

Welcome: K3CJ.



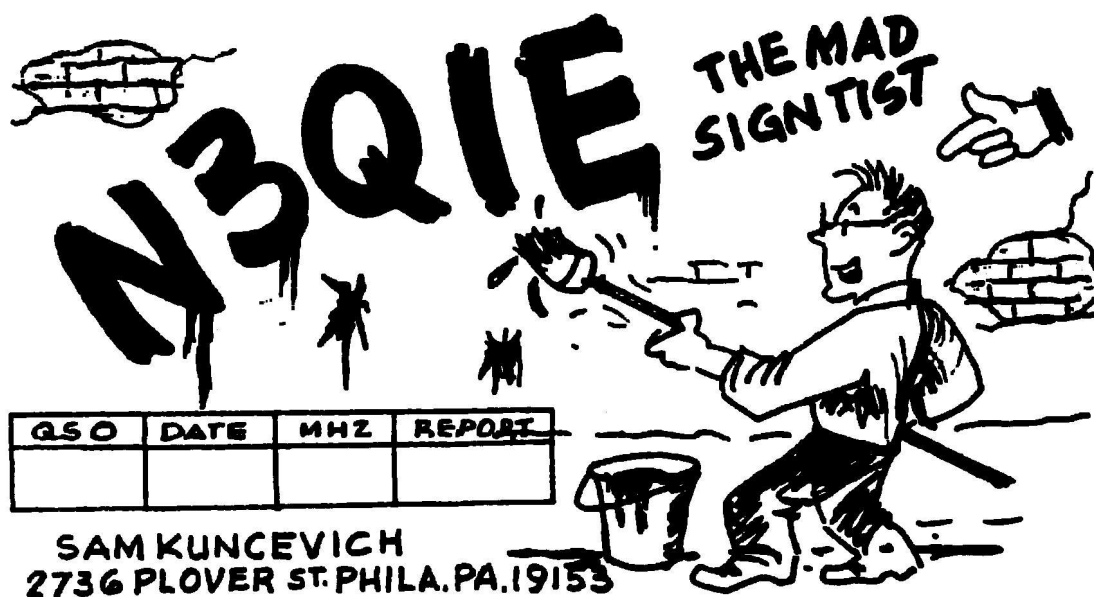
Sam Kuncevich, N3QIE SK

We have the sad duty to report the passing of Sam Kuncevich, N3QIE, a long-time Phil-Mont member and for many years, our Blurb artist.

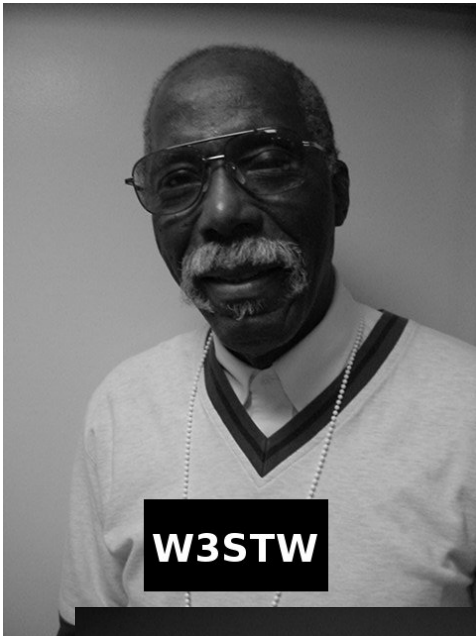
Sam's artwork (and occasional contributed articles) have graced these pages for nearly half a century; an informal review of the archives shows his work in no less than 552 issues (including this one).

His "Silent Key", shown at the left, has been picked up and used by a number of other amateur radio club newsletters.

We'll miss you, Sam.



SAM KUNCEVICH
2736 PLOVER ST. PHILA. PA. 19153



W3STW

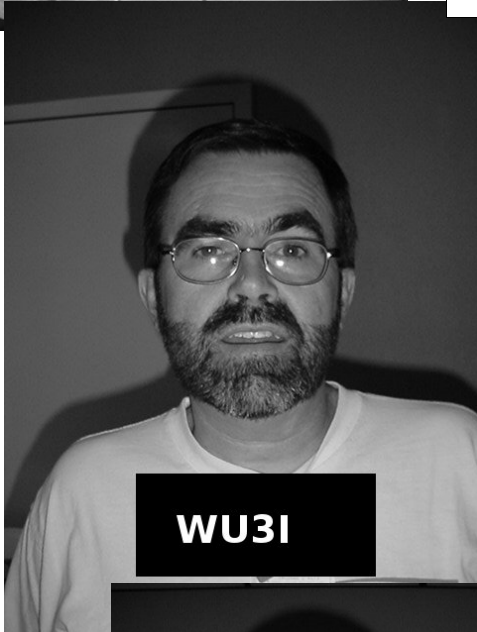
Wanted: The usual suspects...

The slate of candidates running for PMRC offices in 2005:

President : W3STW
 Vice President: W3AOK
 Treasurer: W3RM
 Secretary: N3YXZ (assisted by KB3IV)
 Board of directors:
 K3XS
 KB3IV
 KB3JCR
 WU3I (appointed)



W3AOK



WU3I



W3RM



K3XS



KB3JCR



KB3IV

Photos:
 WA3KIO

Ask Ted: RANDOM THOUGHTS ON PC's

I. Give your PC some clean air.

It is fall and it time to do some cleaning before the holidays. Do you have cats, dogs, birds or potbelly pigs in the house? How about dust? I will bet a nickel to a donut that your PC needs a cleaning. There are two fans in a modern PC; one on the power supply, and one on the processor chip. Well mostly - some chips have heat sinks. Most of the PC's I see from co-worker's homes have clogged fans or fans that are about to be clogged. They need to be cleaned with some regularity. A clogged/dirty power supply fan WILL cause problems due to overheating. Make an investment in a can of compressed air and use it to blow out the fans. There are places such as CompUSA where you can purchase small vacuum cleaners for this purpose. The point is, carefully clean the system. Check the cables and make sure that they are not jamming or blocking fans. Running a PC with out the covers or missing slot covers will defeat the airflow in the system. They do run cooler when buttoned up.

II. Are your floppies blowing in the wind?


Fall is also a good time to think about your floppy media. The shelf life of a floppy disk is about three-to-five years under ideal conditions. Data on a floppy *can*

become unreadable after sitting on a shelf for a few years. Personally, I don't trust floppies that have been lying around for a while. They may have a virus or can be just bad. You can rejuvenate the data on a floppy by coping the files to your hard disk, delete all the files on the floppy and then copy the files back. If it (floppy) was a bootable one, you can format the floppy before you copy the files back; just tell the format to copy system files.

I have been ordering new PC's with out floppy drives. FYI most SFFLRS (Small Form Factor Legacy Reduced Systems) don't have serial ports, parallel ports or floppy drives. Some don't have keyboard and mouse connectors!! I have been using the flash memory sticks instead of floppies. That is 256MB vs. 1,44 MB and the flash stick is smaller. They come in sizes up to 1GB. The only problem with the stick is win9x; XP and win2K will recognize the USB mass storage device without adding drivers. Win9x system will need drives that are tailored to that device.

III. When thoughts of XP pro circle around your head:

Here are my few random thoughts about XP pro. I have been running some tests and found that a XP system with fast disk drives and a lot of memory ('maxed out'), will run faster than a system with a faster processor. Comparing a Dell 1.4 GHZ (slow system) system with high-speed SCSI drives and 1GB of memory to a Dell 2.4 GHZ (faster system) system with standard IDE drives and 512 MB of RAM. The slower system loaded a 5MB word file about 2 times



ARRL VEC

219th Monthly Phil-Mont
VE Exam Session Statistics
for November 4, 2004

Two candidates took two
elements, and we had two
upgrades. The VE team was
chaired by Dusty Rhoads **ND3Q**,
and the other participating VEs
were

Jim McCloskey NS3K
Gene Dinardi N3XKE

Upcoming Exam Sessions:
December 2, 2004
January 6, 2005
(See page 2 for details)

faster than the fast system!

IV. Windows XP Software Suggestion:

If you are going to buy the Windows XP software, you can now buy the version that has Service Pack 2 already applied, rather than spending your time applying the service pack after installing the OS. Many major retailers, including Amazon, Fry's, CompUSA, Best Buy, Circuit City and others, are offering both Home and Professional Editions with SP2.

V. Some more randomizing: XP Home Vs. Pro

I get asked a lot about XP home vs. Pro. Well it is an easy question to answer. Home is XP without the ability to connect to most business networks. It is mainly used for "HOME" networks or P2P (peer to peer) networks. If you have one system and do not connect to a business network home is just fine. However if you need to share an Internet connection or have a bunch of systems connected together pro is the choice.

If you haven't taken the SP2 plunge yet, you might want to check out what your hardware vendor has to say about installing SP2. Although there are many Web sites devoted to general SP2 issues, specific brands have their own peculiarities that can affect SP2's installation and operation on your computer. The big vendors have issued their own recommendations for upgrading their computers to SP2. Check them out here:

Dell:
<http://www.winxpnews.com/rd/rd.cfm?id=040928TI-Dell>

HP & Compaq:
http://www.winxpnews.com/rd/rd.cfm?id=040928TI-HP_Compaq

Sony:
<http://www.winxpnews.com/rd/rd.cfm?id=040928TI-Sony>

Gateway:
<http://www.winxpnews.com/rd/rd.cfm?id=040928TI-Gateway>

VI. Is Microsoft at it again?

The rumor mill has been active with a statement that Microsoft will not support

IE on systems other than XP SP2!

Here is a clip from a web site and a link.

This fact hasn't escaped the notice of critics, who complain that Microsoft is, in effect, forcing them to upgrade the operating system if they want a more secure browser. We're not so sure how this differs from car manufacturers "forcing" you to upgrade to a newer vehicle if you want airbags, but you can read about it and decide for yourself:

http://www.winxpnews.com/rd/rd.cfm?id=040928TI-Secure_IE

.....
 This article was written by Ted Katz N3OWM 10/13/04 Most of my past Blurb articles can be found at <http://members.bellatlantic.net/~theojskat>
 DE N3OWM Ted



Membership Stats

At press time P.M.R.C. has:
 104 FULL PAID MEMBERS
 9 FAMILY MEMBERS
 1 YOUTH MEMBERS
 1 HONORARY MEMBERS
 0 PENDING MEMBERS

December Birthdays

- 01 Eric Marano – N3XYZ
 - 02 Don Gordon -WB3KOJ
 Patricia Katz (XYL N3OWM)
 - 06 Susie Lada – N3FTY
 - 17 Jules Stein - KB3AFH
 - 10 David Spangler – W3DSS*
 - 19 Larry Stevenson - K3HWE
 - 20 Mike Tannenbaum - K2BN
 - 21 Rick Spencer - N3FD
 - 23 Roy Newman - KC2FIO
 - 24 Marty Weinberg - WP4MSX
 - 25 Len Hughes - W3LEN
 Jim McCloskey - NS3K
 - 27 Mindy Pollack (XYL N3VLC)
 Jim Spencer - W3BBB
 - 28 Betty King (XYL W3PXY)
 - 30 Adam Huffnagle - KB3JCP
- *New member 2004

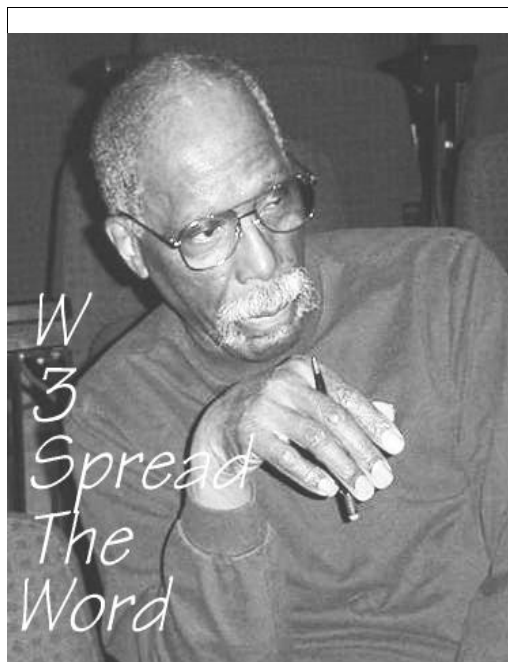


photo: WA3KIO

Spread The Word

--de Al W3STW, PMRC President

Greetings, first I want to extend my most sincere condolences to the

Kuncevich family on the passing away of Blurb artist N3QIE, Sam Kunceovich. The loss of his contribution to the Blurb is missed.

I hope you all had a good Thanksgiving and that these few words find you all in the best of health (no good living nine hundred years with a bad back) and that life, in general, is going your way. All is well on this end.

Once again our program chairman Vice President W3AOK, Bill, presented a spectacular program.

The refreshments of warm sandwiches, cheese cubes, grained crackers, wine, glazed doughnuts, cookies and an assortment

of soft drinks made a superb offering to the group.

Watching a video presentation of "Every Single Minute" rounded out the program.

One might have thought Bill had done enough to make the meeting a success, not so. We were also given a CD copy of "Every Single Minute".

I am also mindful of the effort expended by our nominating chairman Dusty ND3Q and the support from Dick, W3RM for their effort in drafting a slate for the December '04 P.M.R.C., election.

In fact while I'm at it, thank all of you that support the Club. 73 Al.



photo: NG3P

PMRC November Meeting

Al, W3STW called the meeting to order at 7:47 pm.

Dick, W3RM gave a brief treasury report. All of our bills are paid and the fund is in good shape. He also mentioned that the Scholarship Fund is well over half way to its goal. We need to reach 100% by 1/15/2005 so please dig into your pockets for any spare change.

Maggie, K3XS still needs any articles for the Blurb. If you have anything that you would like to submit please contact her.

Ed, KB3IV would welcome any new net controls. If you would

like to give it a shoot get in contact with Ed. He'll set you up with everything you will need. He also mentioned that the HF nets have had an increased level of participation. Just wait until Santa delivers those new HF rigs for Christmas.

Jim, W3BBB let us know that sometime in the near future a work crew will be needed for the input site that is going up in Broomall. If you can help out it would be appreciated.

Steve, WU3I gave a report on how the station is doing at NE High School. As of this date the tower is still not erected. Hopefully things will work out in the near future. It is still being worked on. If you would like to visit the

station it is open from Monday thru Thursday. Please get in contact with WU3I or W3STW so they know you want to make a visit. They would be happy to have you.

Dusty, ND3Q then gave a report on the recent VE session that was held on November 4th. We had 2 license upgrades at the session, including one new Extra(who shall remain nameless). If you would like to upgrade or know of anyone who would like to get their license, our next VE session will be on December 2, 2004. This will be the last Philmont VE session for the year.

Dusty then gave a report on the status of the nominations for the December elections. Voting will take place at the December meeting.

Haring Scholarship Update

The Blurb has learned, from scholarship chairman W3RM, that additional Haring scholarship contributions of 355 received since last month now bring the year-to-date receipts to 1,277, pushing our Haring S-Meter up to S-6 on the progress scale. The goal, 2,000, to fund Phil-Mont's 2005 Claude H. Haring, Jr., W3IIM, Memorial Scholarship, is due to be forwarded to the Foundation for Amateur Radio's Scholarship Committee in January.

Last month, Mike Taraborrelli, N3MT, winner of the first Haring Memorial Scholarship in 2002, commented here about his view on the club's scholarship program. This month we asked Eric Marano, N3YXZ, who received the second Haring scholarship in 2003, for his comments.

"I was honored to have been selected by the F.A.R. scholarship committee to receive the Haring Memorial Scholarship during my senior year at Gwynedd Mercy College, from where I graduated last May. Receiving

that award and financial help, especially from the club in which I 'grew up' in ham radio, gave me the pride and encouragement I needed to excel that final year. I've learned that a solid education is essential today for young individuals to get ahead. I am personally very thankful that so many Phil-Mont members and friends contributed to the scholarship fund \n.and, thus, to my ongoing education. I believe that ham radio scholarships not only help toward meeting today's high education costs, they also encourage active participation by young people in our hobby and in club activities. I've been serving as a Phil-Mont board member this past year, and am now a candidate for club secretary in 2005."

Deductible contributions, payable to the PMRC Scholarship Fund, can be mailed to the treasurer, P.O. Box 88, Abington, PA 19001. And contributions of saleable ham radio equipment (perhaps in time for our ninth Annual Auction-Fest on January 12) are also welcome. Contact W3RM, or visit the club web site, www.phil-mont.org, for additional scholarship fund information.

We would encourage all club members to attend and cast your vote

Before Bill, W3AOK started the program for the evening Dick, W3RM gave a brief verbal history of the club. The meeting night was the 55th anniversary of Philmont. It was interesting to hear the history of Philmont. Since it was old timer's night we discovered that Rollie, W3PWG was the oldest old-timer at age 94. He's like a Timex, keeps on ticking.

Bill, W3AOK then presented the evening's program which was a video presentation about Philmont's participation in the great flood of 1955. It was very interesting to see the vintage cars and equipment of the era. Bill was good enough to transfer the original video on to DVD's and several were made available to anyone who wanted one.

Due to possible conflicts with my work schedule, this will be my

last Secretary's report. Fred, WA3KIO will pick up the slack for December. Starting in January we will have a newly elected club Secretary. It's been fun. I'll see everyone on the radio. Take care

and have a great holiday season.

73 de Jim, NS3K



W3PWG, at Old-Timer's Night (photo WA3KIO)



W3BBB, at Old-Timer's Night 2004 (photo WA3KIO)

From the Editor:

Well, it's the December issue again, which means I'm marking the end of three years as your Blurb editor. We've certainly been through a number of changes over that period, and I won't make everybody (including myself) feel a little bit more like an "old-timer" by listing them here. But some changes represent *progress* too, so we should bear that in mind going forward. For example, this issue of the Blurb was produced on upgraded software: OpenOffice 1.1.3. So I'm blaming any errors on the code. Is that progress or what?

On the cover, we have a chess set made completely of RF connectors, check out Tom's website for more details. Next month, we're planning to print some stills from the 1958 classic PMRC-produced film "Every Single Minute".

Apologies to Ted N3OWM, whose PC article was left out of last issue by my mistake. Keep those Blurb submissions coming in, people; photos, articles, article suggestions are all welcome at any time.

--73 de Maggie K3XS

First Class Mail

Date	December 2004 with PMRC
Wed 01	Board Meeting at WRDV
Thu 02	VE Exams at Northeast High – see p2
Fri 03	
Sat 04	
Sun 05	NCS: 2m and HF: W3YXZ
Mon 06	
Tue 07	Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
Wed 08	PMRC General Meeting at Masonic Village – see p2
Thu 09	
Fri 10	
Sat 11	
Sun 12	NCS: 2m: N3OWM HF: WA3KIO
Mon 13	
Tue 14	
Wed 15	
Thu 16	
Fri 17	
Sat 18	
Sun 19	NCS: 2m and HF: KB3IV
Mon 20	
Tue 21	
Wed 22	
Thu 23	
Fri 24	Christmas Eve
Sat 25	Christmas Day
Sun 26	NCS: 2m: N3FTY HF: W3STW
Mon 27	
Tue 28	
Wed 29	
Thu 30	
Fri 31	New Year's Eve

